

# How to take your first steps on climate change

It's not easy, so we've broken it down  
into six simple steps

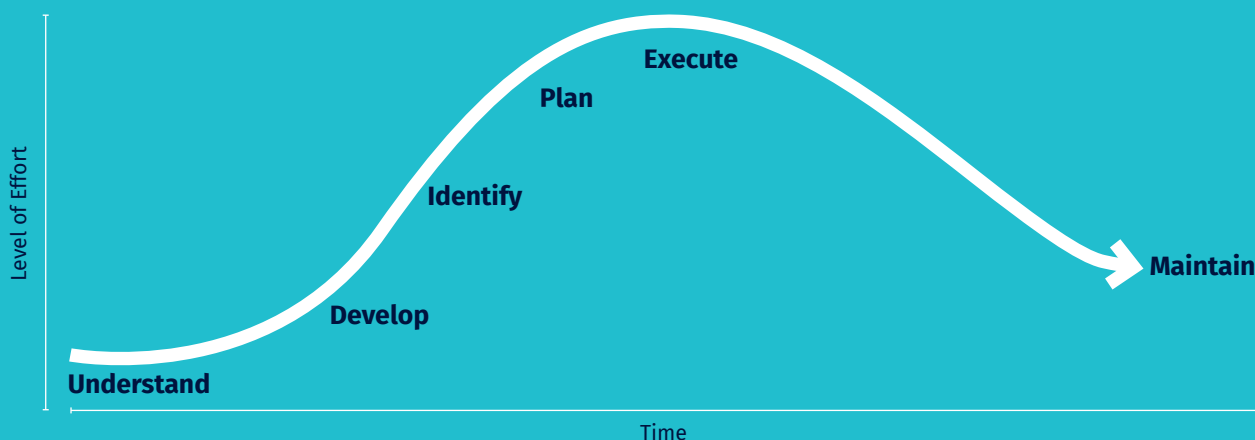
## So, where to start?

As small businesses and workers throughout Vancouver, where can you fit into the activities that will emerge from systems-wide plans and policies? Like other ambitious, large-scale strategies, the scale of this Zero Emissions Economic Transformation Action Plan may be inaccessible to many.

From our engagement with SME representatives, we have heard that businesses face challenges at various points along the lifecycle of implementing a project. We think it is important to start with a view as to how you will deal with each step of the process, and have compiled some resources for each stage below.

## Project Lifecycle

Think of climate action like any other project in your business; it, too, can follow the familiar process:



Six steps to embedding climate  
action into your business



# 6 Steps to Embedding Climate Action into your Business

1

**Understand the context:** Review summaries or overviews of the climate plans relevant to you, to understand both the climate context you work within, and the regulations or other changes you may experience soon.

- **City of Vancouver**  
[Climate Emergency Action Plan](#)
- **Metro Vancouver Regional District**  
[Clean Air Plan](#)
- **Province of British Columbia**  
[CleanBC](#)
- **Government of Canada**  
[Healthy Economy and Healthy Environment](#)

2

**Develop your rationale:** Work internally to develop a rationale for why you want to take climate action: is it about getting in front of competition? Compliance with future regulations? Attracting the next generation of talent? This will help you determine where you want to act. Resources to consider:

- **Deloitte**  
[Consumer Business: Merging climate and business strategy to benefit the bottom line](#)  
Learn from a leading global consultancy group on the first steps toward meeting the triple bottom line (social, environmental, financial)
- **Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)**  
[Manifest Climate: Climate-related Financial Disclosure](#) | The TCFD was created to improve and increase reporting on climate-related financial information. Michael R. Bloomberg is the chair – a renowned businessman and former mayor of New York City.

3

**Identify your opportunities:** Leverage internal capacity, look to hire consultants or use student programs to identify where you can take action to reduce (or prevent) emissions of carbon pollution. Try to think in terms of how you can avoid emissions, reduce them through better operational processes, replace them through electrification or fuel-switching, and offset those that you can't. Useful guides and toolkits:

- **Vancity**  
[Planet Wise Business Guide for Climate Action](#)  
A simple and effective guide designed to help your business respond to the climate crisis by taking actions that reduce, or avoid generating, greenhouse gas emissions
- **Manitoba Chambers of Commerce**  
[Climate Action Toolkit](#) | Helpful information, resources, case studies and more to help SMEs get started on their climate action journey
- **SME Climate Hub**  
A global [resource and tool hub](#) with numerous resources to help you decarbonize

4

**Plan:** Once you have identified your opportunities, you need to rank them based on where the most impact can be felt. Key considerations here are:

- What will I be required to do by regulation and what I can get a head-start on?
- What reduces costs and increases profits?
- What would help me differentiate my business to consumers and employees?

5

**Execute:** Use one of the many excellent service providers – or develop your own internal capacity – to take on climate action and get the job done.

6

**Maintenance:** Maintain steps listed above. Ensure to stay connected with the most updated climate action policies and ZEETAP.

Find more resources online

[www.vancouvereconomic.com/ZEETAP](http://www.vancouvereconomic.com/ZEETAP)

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